AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens ~~of the type~~ having a plurality of lens groups and varying in power in response to variation in intervals between the lens groups, which comprises a reflecting member to bend the optical axis passing through the lens groups and a last lens group, counted from the object side, which is composed of a negative lens group and a positive lens group, with an air layer interposed between them (arranged sequentially from the object side).

2. (Previously Presented) The zoom lens as defined in Claim 1, wherein the lens groups are constructed such that the first lens group counted from the object side is stationary and contains said reflecting member.

3. (Previously Presented) The zoom lens as defined in Claim 1, wherein the lens groups are constructed such that last lens group counted from the object side has a negative refracting power.

4. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens ~~of the type~~ having a plurality of lens groups and varying in power in response to variation in intervals between the lens groups, which comprises a last lens group counted from the object side which is composed of a negative lens group and a positive lens group, with an air layer interposed between them (arranged sequentially from the object side).

5. (Original) The zoom lens as defined in Claim 1, wherein the lens groups are composed of five lens groups.

6. (Original) The zoom lens as defined in Claim 4, wherein the lens groups are composed of five lens groups.

7. (Original) The zoom lens as defined in Claim 1, wherein the negative lens group of the last lens group satisfies the condition defined by the inequality (1) below.